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MP-99-27 Jeffrey S. McCracken

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SEEKS WRITTEN COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR WATER ACQUISITION

The Bureau of Reclamation has released for public review and comment a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant impact (FONSI) for proposed water purchases on the Yuba and Stanislaus rivers for fish and wildlife purposes.

The purpose of the proposed project is to acquire water from willing sellers to meet high-priority fish and wildlife restoration and enhancement objectives. The willing sellers that have been identified are Yuba County Water Agency located on the Yuba River, willing to sell up to 75,000 AF; Oakdale Irrigation District, willing to sell 25,000 AF; and South San Joaquin Irrigation District, willing to sell 25,000 AF, both located on the Stanislaus River.

These water purchases are subject to the negotiation of water purchase agreements. Reclamation will announce the dates of these negotiations in the next few weeks.

The draft EA and draft FONSI were prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The EA describes the potential environmental impacts, both beneficial and adverse, associated with the proposed alternatives.

The documents are available for a 15-day comment period which ends May 28, 1999. To request a copy of the draft, please call 800/742-9474 (or 916/978-5117) and enter 26. Written comments should be addressed to Kellye Kennedy, Water Acquisition Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. For additional information, please contact Kellye Kennedy at 916-978-5209 (TDD 916/978-5608).

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